



**Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 804**

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**Hearing Date:** January 30, 2001

**Committee On:** Agriculture

**Introducers:** (Dierks)

**Title:** Change carbon sequestration assessment provisions

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

7 Yes                      Senators Burling, Cunningham, Dierks, McDonald, Schimek,  
Schrock, Vrtiska

0 No

0 Present, not voting

1 Absent                      Senator Chambers

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**Proponents:**

Rick Leonard, Research Analyst  
Mary Harding  
Dayle Williamson

**Representing:**

Agriculture Committee  
Nebraska Environmental Trust  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Steve Chick

**Representing:**

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 804 changes from mandatory to permissive a duty of the Director of Natural Resources under LB 957 enacted during the 2000 session of the Legislature to perform an assessment of agricultural lands in the state for carbon sequestration potential. An application for an Environmental Trust Fund grant to fund the assessment has been applied for. Rules governing expenditure of the Environmental Trust Fund provide that grants may not be awarded for activities that are mandated by statute. The purpose of the bill is to clarify that the Legislature intends that the assessment called for by passage of LB 957 be eligible for an Environmental Trust grant and to relieve the Director of the duty to complete the assessment if funding is not available.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendments add the emergency clause.

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**Senator Merton L. Dierks, Chairperson**